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Volume 8, Issue 42 wilcoxnewspapers.com • 269-657-3072 USPS 564-620

Van Buren District Library Millage renewal to be on Nov. 4, ballot

According to an information sheet provided by the Van Buren District Library, the 2015 supplemental millage allowed Van Buren District Library (VBDL) to open all seven locations six days per week and significantly expand community programming. Renewing this millage ensures VBDL can maintain these hours and services, including:

2,067 events, classes, and programs offered in 2024 (up from 647 in 2014)

A growing collection of eBooks, audiobooks, and streaming content (over 15 percent of VBDL's circulation of items that it loaned in 2024)

420 mobile Internet hotspots (expanded from 210 in 2022)

New initiatives like Transparent Language, free legal assistance via Michigan Legal Help, and the library's latest service, Media by Mail, which provides free delivery of library materials to those who are homebound due to infirmity or age.

What will this cost the average homeowner?

Renewing the 1984 mill tax will cost approximately $14 per year for a home with a true cash value of $220,703 and a taxable value of $69,215, the average true cash and taxable values for homes in VBDL's service area according to VanBuren County's 2025 Equalization Report.

If the library does not receive the millage renewal?

VBDL could be forced to reduce services over time, including potential cuts to digital services like hoopla and mobile Internet hotspot lending.

For more information, visit vbdl.org/about/millagerenewal2025/

Paw Paw Council approves new outdoor space next to library

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - A new outdoor space will be developed in an empty lot owned by the Paw Paw District Library, according to Paw Paw District Librarian Gretchen Evans.

On Monday, Oct. 13, the Paw Paw Village Council approved the new outdoor space, following an earlier recommendation by the village's Planning Commission.

In 2019, the library purchased the former Soapy's Car Wash property with future possibilities in mind, according to Evans. "While our building remains new and welcoming, the pandemic underscored the need for safe, flexible outdoor area – places for story time under the sky, messy crafts, live performances, and community gatherings," said Evans.

The library partnered with landscape architects at C2AE and sought out community input as "a central part of the design process. Evans said last February, the library hosted a design charrette with 40 residents and collected more feedback from library visitors in July. "Their ideas helped shape the final plan, which features a mini amphitheater, pavilion, walking trails, and more," said Evans.

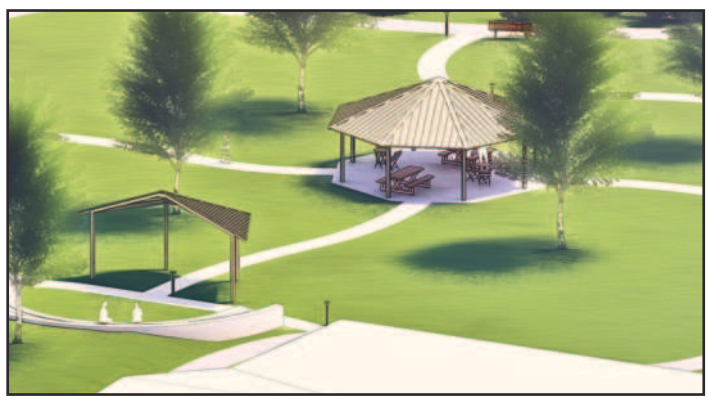
According to Evans, the project is "more than just a new space, it is also about connection. We hope it becomes a place where Paw Paw residents of all ages can come together to learn, play, and grow."

Evans said the transformation is made possible thanks to the generosity of local donors and the careful stewardship of library savings."

Development is expected to begin in the coming weeks, with a grand opening scheduled for next spring.

A new outdoor space will be developed in an empty lot owned by the Paw Paw District Library, according to Paw Paw District Librarian Gretchen Evans. On Monday, Oct. 13, the Paw Paw Village Council approved the new outdoor space, following an earlier recommendation by the village's Planning Commission.

Photos courtesy/Paw Paw District Library



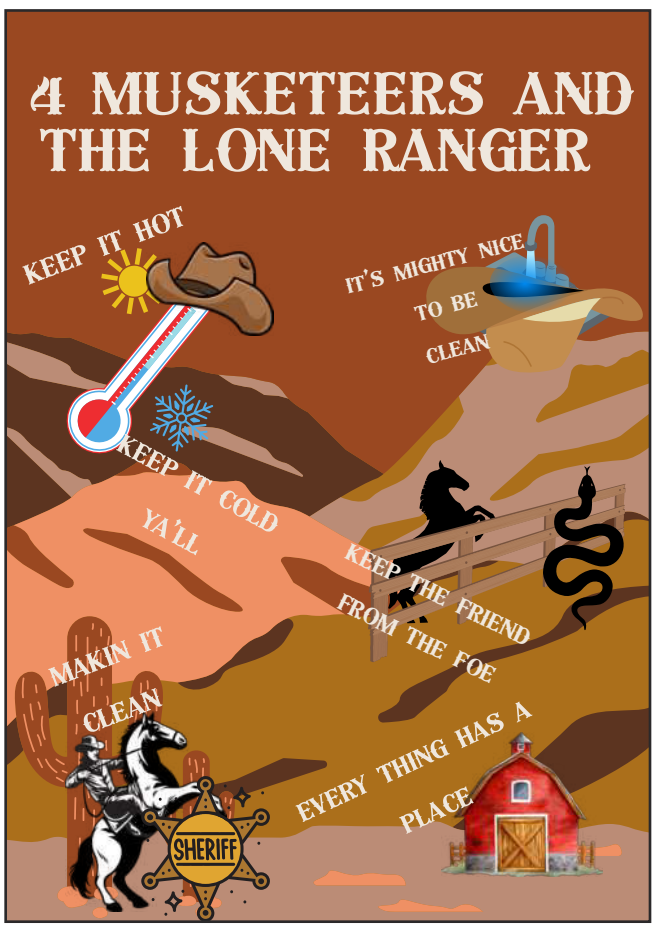
Decatur VFW sponsors veterans stand down

A Van Buren Veteran Stand Down was held Friday, Oct. 10, at the Decatur VFW, 560 N Phelps St., Decatur. The event gave service veterans an opportunity to connect with local resources, support services, and fellow veterans. The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department (VBCDHD) provided flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to those who qualified.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

ProStart students wins statewide poster contest

ProStart students at Van Buren earned first place in the Michigan Hospitality Foundation National Food Safety Education poster design competition with their "Four Musketeers and the Lone Ranger" design with a country western theme.


4 MUSKETEERS AND THE LONE RANGER
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IT'S MIGHTY NICE TO BE CLEAN
KEEP IT COLD YA'LL
KEEP THE FRIEND FROM THE FOE
MAKIN IT CLEAN
EVERY THING HAS A PLACE
SHERIFF

The team consisted of Bree Steadman, Adriana Rivas, Kyla Hagen, Sabeiva Rodriguez and Levi Hostetler.

This poster competition was hosted during National Food Safety Education Month, which takes place in September, to raise awareness about common foodborne illnesses and steps to prevent them. Food safety and restaurant hygiene are critical every day, and this yearly observance provides an important opportunity to increase awareness in and around the hospitality industry, including the ProStart curriculum.

The top three teams will receive ServSafe-branded items as prizes for each team member. All participating schools will receive a Case of ServSafe textbooks as well.

"We applaud these students for their creativity and commitment to food safety," said Amanda Smith, executive director of the Michigan Hospitality Foundation. "Food safety isn't just a competition topic. It's an essential skill that lies at the heart of hospitality and the ProStart curriculum."

No Kings Day of Action Oct. 18 in Paw Paw

PAW PAW - On Oct. 18, Paw Paw area residents will join millions nationwide in the second No Kings Day of Action, a day of non-violent protest. There are currently thousands of events planned across the country, with more added every day.

Indivisible Paw Paw will hold a No Kings 2 rally at the Maple Lake Amphitheatre, 108 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will start with a brief information session, followed by a march through downtown Paw. The rally is open to the public.

A spokesperson for Indivisible Paw Paw, said, "We are organizing a peaceful day of action in response to recent decisions by President Trump. Our event will bring together local residents from various backgrounds who want to express a shared message: We believe in democratic principles in America."

Visit the organization's website or Facebook at: indivisiblepawpaw.

All No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to non-violent protest and community safety.

Organizers are trained in de-escalation and are working closely with local partners to ensure peaceful and powerful actions nationwide.

Van Buren County Museum plans soup supper fundraiser

HARTFORD - Van Buren County Historical Society will hold a Soup Supper at the Lawrence Township Hall, 411 N. Paw Paw St., Friday, Oct. 24, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Soup Supper is by donation to the museum.

There will be several homemade choices: chicken noodle, bean and ham, and potato plus sloppy joes. The desserts are donated by the museum's membership with a huge assortment of cakes, pies, cookies, brownies and more.

Come on out and support the museum, meet and greet your neighbors and enjoy a delicious homecooked meal. Come early for the best selection.

New holiday lighting installed on South Haven streets

Downtown South Haven will soon be decked out in festive lighting for the holidays. Workers were busy this past week stringing lights throughout the downtown district. Jen Sistrunk, Executive Director of the Visitors Bureau, reports the downtown will have all new lights this year; all warm white except the tree in front of City Hall, which will be multi-colored. The tree lighting ceremony will be part of the annual Holiday Gathering event on Friday. Nov. 28.

Photo by Tom Renner.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Local veteran goes on Flight of Honor

By James Windell

When Monty Brenner boarded a plane in Kalamazoo on Saturday, October 11, 2025, he didn't know how awesome his day was going to be.

He knew he was being flown to Washington D.C., but on his return the Army veteran said "It was just wonderful!"

Brenner, who lives in Casco Township and served in the Army in Germany in the 1960s, found out in September of this year that he had been selected by the Honor Flight Network to go on one of the groups' one day flights to Washington, DC.

The mission of the Honor Flight Network is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. The Network provided Brenner and 80 other veterans from the area a dinner at the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport on Friday night, a flight to DC for the day on Saturday, and a return home late that Saturday night.

"It was great to get together with a bunch of guys and reminisce," Brenner said, "but I enjoyed the memorials, especially the Vietnam Veterans Memorial."

However, he says that visiting Arlington Cemetery was special because they arrived in time to witness the changing of the guard. Brenner's 21-year-old grandson, Carson Turchan, accompanied Brenner on the trip.

"I think the changing of the guards at Arlington Cemetery was a big moment for my grandfather and I think for all the veterans there," Turchan said. "Not only to get to see the changing of the guard, but to see the guards paying respect to the veterans was impressive."

Brenner was drafted in the Army in 1966 and was stationed in Germany. Cheri Brenner, his wife for 61 years, recalls that since they had not been married long she wanted to join him in Germany. "The Army didn't provide any benefits for me to go to Germany," she said, "so I had to pay my own way. When we lived in Germany, I got $95 a month from the Army and he got $49 a month."

She also added that Monty didn't think he deserved to go on the Honor Flight because he didn't serve in Vietnam, but she said that he did serve the country in a different way.

When the Talons Out Honor Flight arrived back at the airport on Saturday night, Cheri Brenner said, there was a large crowd at the airport to welcome the veterans back home. "We were all lined up with people on both sides," she said admittedly getting teary-eyed as she talked about the reception the veterans received. "We welcomed all of them with balloons and signs and we shook everyone's hands."

And that fulfills the vision of the Honor Flight program: A nation where all of America's veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve.

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Wings of God fundraiser dinner is a sell-out

The 15th annual Wings of God Benefit Dinner was held Thursday Oct. 9, at the Lawton Community Center. The event, which was sold out, hoped to reach a goal of $38,000, which will up-lift Christ-centered transformation in women's lives, creating generational impact. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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Lawton woman helps restore veterans' tombstones in cemetery

A Lawton woman is helping to restore tombstones of service veterans buried in a Lawton cemetery, saying she is doing it out of the "goodness of my heart to help out," and her work is not going unnoticed, according to the Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 120 Vice Commander Lyle Paterala-Streeter. Laurie Bastian, who has 14 hours of tombstone restoration at Oak Grove Cemetery, said she approached the American Legion to see if they would reimburse her for initial cost $62 for cleaning supplies. The post responded and more than doubled her request, offering her $150 for her work supplies. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
new4garrod@gmal.com

LAWTON - A Lawton woman is helping to restore tombstones of service veterans buried in a Lawton cemetery, saying she is doing it out of the "goodness of my heart to help out," and her work is not going unnoticed, according to the Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 120 Vice Commander Lyle Paterala-Streeter.

Laurie Bastian, who has 14 hours of tombstone restoration at Oak Grove Cemetery, said she approached the American Legion to see if they would reimburse her for initial cost $62 for cleaning supplies.

The post responded and more than doubled her request, offering her $150 for her work supplies.

"You're making a difference, and we sure appreciate it," said Paterala-Streeter to Bastian as the two gathered at the cemetery on Monday, Oct. 12.

Bastian said, "I am giving back to veterans. They have sacrificed so much for our freedom and this great country."

In restoring the tombstones, Bastian uses a three-step process, spray with water, a second scrub, and "a lot of elbow grease," then D-2 to eat away the bacteria.

Paterala-Streeter said there has been a decline in membership, as the post currently has nine active members, with six of those members in their late 60s.

Paterala-Streeter has been a member for the past three years, after first being approached five years ago to join.

A legion auxiliary chapter is being formed, according to Paterala-Streeter, and members are currently being sought for that auxiliary. "It's been a mound of paperwork to get an auxiliary started," said Paterala-Streeter.

Paterala-Streeter, a Marine veteran, said individuals who would like to financially assist Bastian in her restoration efforts may do so by sending checks to Lawton American Legion Waters-Hackenberg Post 120, P.O. Box 253, Lawton, MI., 49065. In the memo line, write tombstone restoration.

Bastian, who began tracing her genealogy, soon expanded her work to tombstone restoration. She plans to expand her work to include tombstone repair, and will attend a seminar on Saturday, Oct. 18, in Battle Creek, to gain knowledge on cemetery tombstone repair.

Paterala-Streeter said veterans' legacies are not going to live on if their tombstones are damaged. The post is looking into finding the funding available for needed repair.

Lawrence Elementary School establishes new Honor Society Chapter

LAWRENCE - Lawrence Elementary has established a chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) to recognize its most outstanding students.

Staff at the school were recently notified that their application to begin this prestigious new national student recognition program was approved by the national office and that they may now undertake the process of selecting new members for the 2025-2026 school year.

More than just an honor roll, NEHS engages its members in service activities and leadership development that help strengthen the programs for all students at the school and improve life in the community. Lawrence joins elementary schools around the nation in establishing a program to promote excellence in academic achievement and involvement in leadership and service for the nation's youngest students.

"I am incredibly excited for Lawrence Elementary School to join the National Elementary Honor Society. This new collaboration provides us with a powerful way to recognize students who excel not only in academics, but also in leadership, service, and character. By becoming part of this national organization, our school is taking an important step in fostering a culture of excellence and responsibility. This partnership will open doors for our students to grow as leaders, contribute to their community, and take pride in their achievements. I am thrilled to see how this opportunity will strengthen our school community and empower our students to shine both inside and outside the classroom, said Lawrence K-12 Principal xxxxx Thumm.

NEHS is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) in partnership with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Foundation. "We are proud to recognize Lawrence Elementary as a new affiliate of the National Elementary Honor Society," said JoAnn Bartoletti, executive director of NASSP. "As an NEHS affiliate, this school has indicated its commitment to acknowledging the hard work of high-achieving and well-rounded students. It also signals support for the core values of the Honor Society—values that we believe enhance the life of every member and the entire school community."

The National Elementary Honor Society joins the National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) as the nation's premier organizations recognizing outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, responsibility, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 30,000 elementary and middle-level principals in the United States, Canada, and overseas.

Visit www.naesp.org for more information. For more information about the National Elementary Honor Society, visit www.nehs.org

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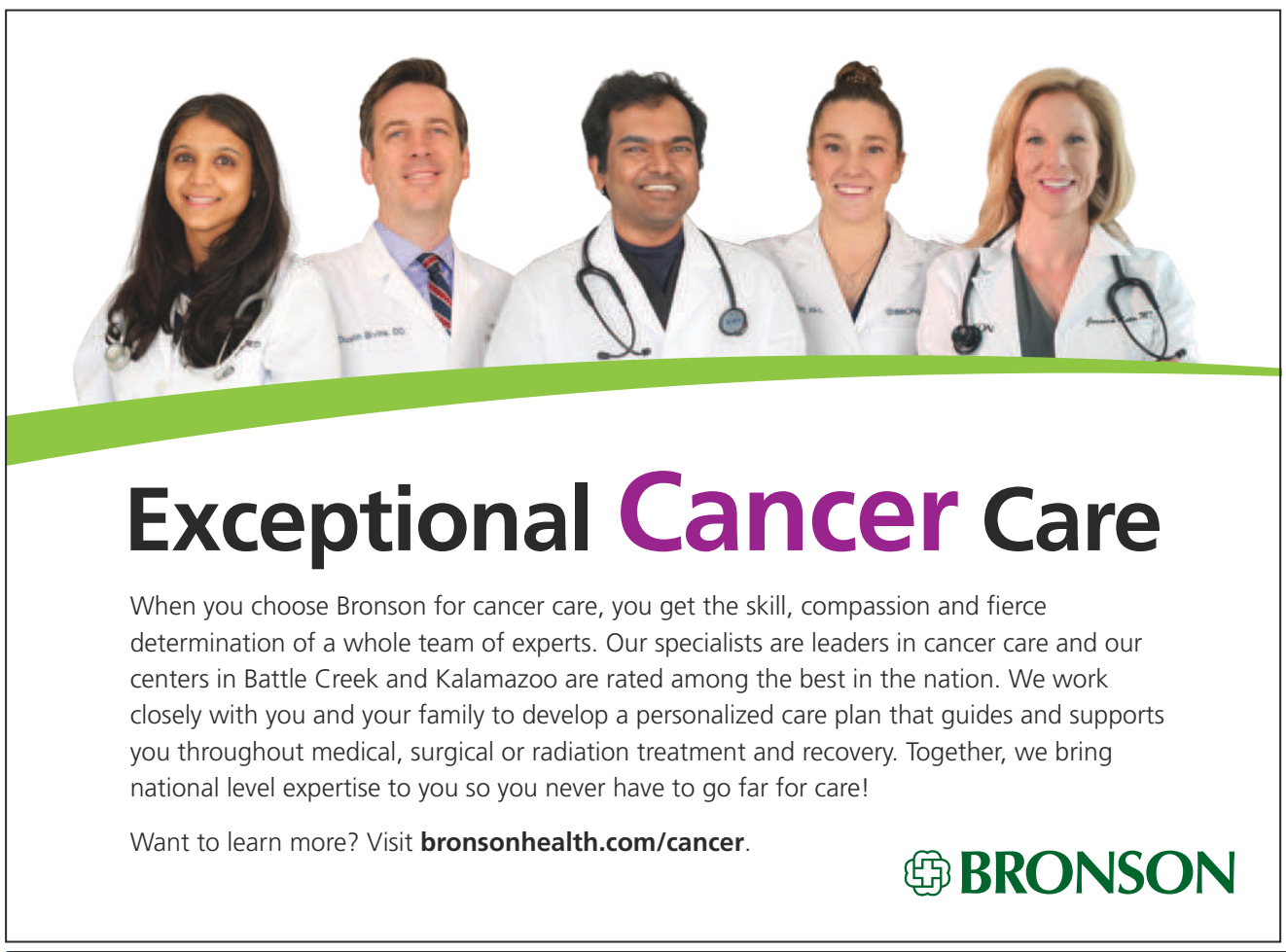

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Meet Bailey Sisoy-Moore: Executive Director of the Michigan Maritime Museum

By James Windell

The enthusiasm Bailey Sisoy-Moore brings to her job is awe-inspiring.

"I truly believe in my soul that when museums are at their best, we become your default," she says. "Our museum should be your place to go to for learning."

As the new Executive Director of the Michigan Maritime Museum, a premier destination for preserving and celebrating Great Lakes maritime heritage, Sisoy-Moore has a vision for what she would like for the Museum in the future. "I want the museum to feel like an extension of the South Haven community that is so welcoming," she says. "That is really important to me. I want people to walk in this building and feel like Patti is going to give you a hug."

She gives Patti Montgomery Reinert, the Executive Director for the past 16 years, credit for making the museum into a national gem. "I don't know any museum director who wouldn't cut off their right arm to come here," Sisoy-Moore says.

How Sisoy-Moore ended up in South Haven and the Michigan Maritime Museum is a story of its own.

"I owned a couple of companies in Detroit in which we facilitate historic tours," she begins as she explains how her companies started. "My company started back in 2008 and we were doing historical tours all over Detroit. Then we started bringing in the tall ships and conducting all of the ship tours around the state of Michigan. During the pandemic, I began noticing that institutions were having staffing issues. So, I thought we could start doing contract work – training people to organize the tours – and that's where my second company came in. We now facilitate 97 tours; we do battlefields, all the Ford plants, Michigan Central Station, the Fisher Building and the Fox Theater."

Sisoy-Moore is the founder of the Detroit History Club and Detroit History Tours, which conduct excursions on buses, on foot, and even on tall ships. Her companies had grown so much that she had developed a reputation for programming spaces. But there was something she missed.

"My companies grew, and I had over 200 employees, but my day-to-day work wasn't the work I love," she says. "It had become administration of the companies. That was wonderful and it was not lost on me that not a lot of companies can grow to the point that their team can take it over. But I missed the down-in-the-dirt work."

Also, she and her husband Jeff began to ask themselves what they wanted the next decade to look like for them. "There were a few things we knew we wanted," Sisoy-Moore recalls. "I wanted to be able to enjoy the work of a museum. For me, working in a museum is right up there with getting to be an astronaut." They also wanted to stay in Michigan near their family.

After interviewing for a couple of museum positions, she heard about the opening for an executive director at the Michigan Maritime Museum. Although she had never been in West Michigan, she drove to South Haven to check out the museum and the town.

"I walked around town and went over to the museum and walked around it," she says. "After walking around town some more, I called my husband and the first thing he said was 'You love it, don't you?' I said I do and then added: 'I think I could do spectacular work here."

With Patti Montgomery Reinert's retirement official as of September 30, Sisoy-Moore has had a chance to make the transition working with Reinert over the past few months. She says that the one area where she thinks the Museum can improve is in our programming. She would like to see more people using the Museum. That's what she means when she says she would like to see the Museum be the default for people in the community.

"I want the Museum to be the go-to place for learning," she says. "When people are looking for something to do, I want them to say, 'Let's go to the museum and see what's going on.' I want the Museum to feel like an extension of the city and the community and be welcoming.

Sisoy-Moore envisions the Museum being a big part of life-long learning for adults. "Education is not just for kids, although we certainly want this place to be filled with kids," she says. "But we are learning so much now about how important life-long learning is and how it helps to reduce the risks of dementia and Alzheimer's. We want to be a part of that by having exciting programs, new exhibits, and always have a worthwhile reason for people of all ages to come in."

Global Motion installed at playground

A new piece of playground equipment, the Global Motion, is being enjoyed at South Haven's Kids Corner Park.

"The Global Motion orbit spinner is bringing a new level of fun and motion to the playground," according to Parks and Streets Superintendent Aaron Priebe. "It encourages kids to play together, build balance and enjoy active outdoor recreation."

Priebe said the addition supports the city's ongoing efforts to enhance park spaces and provide engaging play opportunities to families.

Photo by Tom Renner

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Or you can email the above with any questions to Chief VanDerWoude at: vanderwoudet@decaturmi.us.

Storytellers Senior Readers Theater to perform "The Christmas Gathering"

The Storytellers Senior Readers Theater returns to the stage with a repeat performance of "The Christmas Gathering" on Nov. 22 and 23 at South Haven Senior Services. Saturday's performance will be at 7pm with Sunday's at 3pm.

This heartwarming play tells the story of a special Christmas dinner that brings to focus the true spirit of Christmas. Ticket prices are $10 and can be purchased at the welcome desk of the Senior Services South Haven location or at the door.

The Storytellers, South Haven's Senior Readers Theater group, is proud to be part of the fastest growing form of theater today. They are unlike traditional theater since actors read their scripts while sitting or standing using minimal sets, props and sound effects. They perform both humorous and dramatic plays and all are dedicated to the craft of live theater.

The Storytellers are sponsored by Senior Services of Van Buren County and in addition to performing on their stage, they also have an educational arm, performing for Western Michigan University's Health and Human Services School and Andrews University Medical School as an intergenerational teaching tool to help students better understand the population for whom they care.

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VIEWPOINT

A time to celebrate, hostages have been released

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

I don't care how bad your Trump Derangement Syndrome might be, you have to give the man credit for orchestrating a deal that released the 20 living Israeli hostages from the grips of Hamas on Monday.

On Monday, the world witnessed a rare, human moment amid a long, bitter conflict. Families embraced their loved ones. Streets in Tel Aviv filled with relief and quiet celebration. For two years, these hostages had been a grim reminder of a conflict defined by loss — today, diplomacy claimed a victory.

President Trump's envoys, namely Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Steve Witkopf and Jared Kusner engaged regional partners, coordinated with Israel, and pressed for terms that all sides could accept. While the details of the back-channel negotiations remain largely undisclosed, multiple outlets have confirmed that the ceasefire arrangement aligns closely with the "Gaza peace plan" Trump outlined earlier this month. The plan's first phase — the exchange of hostages for prisoners and a pause in fighting — became reality Monday.

Hostage negotiations test the limits of leadership. They demand pragmatism, patience, and the willingness to engage with adversaries without endorsing aggression. Trump's approach — combining public advocacy with behind-the-scenes diplomacy — mirrors strategies he has used in past foreign policy efforts. The remarkable element in this case is not spectacle, but outcome: coordination across rival factions and regional powers produced a tangible result. By utilizing Arab countries like Egypt and Quatar, along with Turkey, Trump's envoy was able to put enough pressure on Hamas to accept the agreement.

The humanitarian dimension cannot be overstated. For families of the hostages, relief is immediate and profound. Years of uncertainty, fear, and grief have been replaced with reunion, gratitude, and the chance to rebuild lives interrupted by violence. These human stories are often lost in the headlines, yet they remain the clearest measure of success in any diplomatic effort. Saving lives, restoring families, and providing hope are the tangible consequences of negotiation and patience.

I for one, was overcome with joy when I first heard the hostages were going to be released. That joy continued all week long as I watched the families reunite. I now pray that deceased hostages that haven't been returned will be brought to their families in short order.

That said, the achievement is fragile. Ceasefires in this region rarely last. Israel remains on guard against Hamas, and over 1,700 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged for 20 hostages — a trade that may provoke domestic criticism and complicate future negotiations. The agreement's durability depends on ongoing compliance, trust among mediators, and the ability to enforce terms in a highly volatile environment. Success in diplomacy is rarely clean or perfect; it is measured in lives saved, in the willingness to create pathways where none existed before, and in the temporary reprieve from violence that allows hope to flourish.

It is also worth remembering that this outcome reflects the efforts of many actors: Israeli negotiators, Arab intermediaries, humanitarian organizations, and yes, the Trump team. The story of Monday's release is less about credit and more about the power of sustained dialogue in a conflict too often defined by confrontation. Leadership, in this case, was less about headlines and more about the patient work required to bring parties to the table and convince them that compromise, however imperfect, could save lives.

That's not easy to do. Hamas has held these hostages for over 2 years, thinking they would be the ultimate bargaining chip to remain in control of Gaza. They final relinquished when Trump's deal forced Israel to return 1700 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the hostages.

You could say this is a victory for everyone. Now phase 2 of Trump's peace plan demands Hamas give up control of Gaza. Will see if this happens, but in the meantime we should all celebrate the region is enjoying peace for the first time in a long time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader asks for support of three candidates

Dear Editor and South Haven Community,

As we approach the November election, it's hard to believe that the beautiful days of summer will soon give way to winter. These lingering sunny days have breathed life into our downtown—shops, restaurants, museums, parks, and marinas are buzzing with activity. South Haven has truly evolved into a year-round destination, drawing visitors from up to six hours away who come to enjoy our natural beauty and welcoming atmosphere.

For our local businesses, these final days of summer and fall provide a critical opportunity to boost business before the slower winter months. It's more important than ever that we support them—by shopping local, dining out, visiting attractions, and engaging with the small businesses that make our community unique.

But while we celebrate the positives, we must also face the challenges. Over the past two years, South Haven has struggled with an identity crisis. City Council has been consumed by a single issue, leaving other important matters neglected. Worse, this narrow focus has left many in our community feeling unwelcome in a place that has historically opened its arms to all—regardless of wealth, race, sex, or creed.

This stagnation has come at a critical time. With the reopening of the Palisades Nuclear Plant, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to attract workers and families to our community. Yet we've seen little effort from our leadership to prepare for this moment—no clear plans for housing, school support, or long-term economic growth. We risk missing a major opportunity to strengthen our schools, housing market, and local economy.

It's time for change. South Haven needs leaders who are decisive, proactive, and committed to growth—not just preserving the status quo or serving a select few. We need people who can rise above division and focus on building a stronger, more inclusive future for everyone.

That's why I urge you to support the following candidates: Annie Brown for Mayor, Eddie Polk for Ward 1, Tom Capps for Ward 2, and David Flack for Ward 3.

These four individuals have deep roots in South Haven. They're business owners, long-time volunteers, and community advocates who have proven their dedication through years of service. They are ready to lead. Their vision includes:

- Support for local businesses
- Zoning reforms for more housing options, including affordable housing
- Beach safety improvements and lifeguard programs
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Thoughtful business attraction and support
- A commitment to solving issues that have been ignored for too long

We need leaders who won't just make promises during the campaign—but who will roll up their sleeves and get to work once in office. These candidates are ready to make real, lasting improvements.

This election affects more than just the city—it impacts our townships, schools, and neighboring communities. The decisions we make this November will shape the future of South Haven for years to come. Let's choose leaders who will unite us, invest in our growth, and ensure South Haven remains a place we're all proud to call home.

Make your voice heard this November. Vote for Annie Brown, Eddie Polk, Tom Capps, and David Flack. Let's get South Haven back on track—and make it once again the shining city on the lake.

Sincerely,
Ryan Servatius

Reader endorses SH mayoral candidate

Dear Editor:

RE-ELECT ANNIE BROWN for Mayor! As a former Council-member, of 9 years, I have observed Annie as a Mayor and she has what it takes to lead the council in the right direction for the better of the entire City!! She is a resident of 40 years and business owner, of Filbrandt Funeral Home for 22 years. Annie is volunteering her time to be on the boards of VBC Senior Services, SHAES, South Haven Housing, Parks Commission, and was on the school board for 14 years. She REALLY understands South Haven and the vision needed for the city's future growth. As a diplomat, she can handle people in a sensitive and effective way, and at the same time keep the economic well-being of the needs of the community.

Annie is ALWAYS prepared for the meetings and has never abstains from a vote! The last 2 years of being mayor, she has been blocked from leading and moving the city forward. Annie is a GREAT advocate, willing to listen, is respectful and works well with all levels of city employees. What she doesn't know or understands, she finds the answers and information needed! SHE has the experience, knowledge, drive and desire to make South Haven a well-balanced community, with neighborhoods, and still accommodate tourist for South Haven financial needs to survive.

Please vote Annie Brown for Mayor!

Vickiy Kozlik-Wall
Former City Council-member

Dispatchers honored at Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

"Dispatcher Melissa Dunckel was awarded a Letter of Commendation for her police radio traffic she done on a SWAT Call Out that helped our Team tremendously with a positive outcome," said Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Dispatcher Brooke Smith and Dispatcher Brianna Dobberstein were awarded Life Saving Awards for their handling of two life-saving incidents three minutes apart on July 4. Great job once again by all three of these dispatchers listed," said Sheriff Abbott.

Kirk Graham was welcomed to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division. Deputy Graham brings 21 years of experience from a Sheriff's Office, nine of which were in animal control. "We are excited to welcome him to our team/family," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled 902 calls for service in September and had 291 traffic stops. For the year they are now at 7,685 calls for service with 3,733 traffic stops.

Uniform Response had a flee and elude in the Village of Decatur. The pursuit went through the village and ended in Decatur Township after the suspect went off road. With a drone in the air and the area being surrounded by law enforcement, the suspect walked out of the cornfield and was placed in custody. The suspect advised he fled due to warrants for his arrest. The vehicle didn't have insurance, had a license plate on it taken off a vehicle from a junk yard, and had methamphetamine in it. The driver also had a revoked driver's license. He now faces several charges for the incident.

Uniform Response handled a road rage incident in Waverly Township. "The victim pulled out in front of the suspect which made him go into a rage. The suspect passed the victim pulling a trailer almost running them off the road causing a crash. The suspect pulled in where the victim went, got out, and grabbed a chainsaw out of the bed of his truck. The saw wouldn't start, so he physically assaulted the female victim. He fled the scene, but deputies were able to track him down and arrest him for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Detectives from our office attended a Specialized Training hosted by Safe Harbor, a Child Advocacy Center that has an office here in our county that we use. The training brought together a wide range of professionals including prosecutors, DHS case workers, and law enforcement officers. A lot of information was given and discussed involving victims in different related cases involving children," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence Incident in Geneva Township. The investigation found that the wife poured gas on the husband's company vehicle in attempting to burn it. It was also found she poured gas all through the residence during the altercation. The report is being reviewed by the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for charges.

Several Sheriff's deputies attended a Legal Update Class hosted in Ottawa County this week. "Updated laws, different cases are gone over, scenarios etc. These classes are important for our office to keep up with the ever-changing statutes and case laws," said Sheriff Abbott.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WILCOX NEWSPAPERS, LLC
PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 657-3072 • wilcoxnewspapers.com

Publisher - Mike Wilcox
Graphics- Liz LaValle
Reporter - Paul Garrod
IT - Jordan Wilcox

PERIODICAL RATE POSTAGE PAID AT PAW PAW, MI 49079-0129
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Church announces building addition to enhance community worship

The Paw Paw Seventh-day Adventist Church has announced the commencement of an exciting new chapter with the upcoming addition to its facility. The $3 million expansion project aims to better serve the congregation and community through increased space, accessibility, and comfort.

The new addition will effectively double the size of the fellowship hall, providing ample space for church events, community gatherings, and outreach programs. An expansive new foyer will welcome visitors and members alike, creating a warm and inviting entrance to the church. To ensure access for everyone, an elevator will be installed, facilitating smooth and easy movement between all levels of the building.

In addition, the sanctuary will be expanded to accommodate more congregants, ensuring everyone has a place to worship comfortably. “This project reflects our commitment to fostering a nurturing environment for worship and fellowship that is accessible to everyone,” said Pastor Sean Reed.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held Saturday, Sept. 20, during the morning worship service, marking the beginning of this exciting transformation. Construction is expected to commence shortly and is projected to be completed within one year.“We are thrilled to see this vision take shape and look forward to opening our doors even wider to serve our congregation and community,” added Pastor Reed.

Bloomingdale announces 2025 trick-or-treat hours

The Village of Bloomingdale has set official hours for Halloween trick-or-treating this year. Children and families are invited to enjoy the community-wide event on Friday, October 31, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Residents who wish to participate are encouraged to turn on their porch lights to signal that they are handing out candy. Motorists are asked to drive with extra caution during this time, as many children will be walking throughout the Village in costumes.

The Village also reminds families to practice common Halloween safety tips: use sidewalks and crosswalks, carry flashlights or glow sticks, and check all treats before eating.

OBITUARIES

Carl J. Harris

Carl J. Harris, Squirrel, has climbed his last tree. Carl passed away Sept. 27, 2025 at his home in Lawton, MI surrounded by family, including his younger sister from Texas. He was born at home Dec. 18, 1933, and since then he has made quite an impact in this little area of our world.

Carl was passionate about having fun and getting joy out of the life he was given. One of the ways he had fun was to be in out in nature. He once said, “I hated having to put on shoes when I started school”; he was used to the dirt under his feet. Carl often chose nature over school. His biggest fun and joy was his family, family gatherings, surprising people, and, of course, being the center of attention.

The Squirrel often recalled fond memories of his childhood in “the sticks” of the Lawrence/Paw Paw area. One such memory is when he and his buddy, Jerry Mead, got totally covered in mud, laughed at each other then jumped in the river. Another fond memory Carl shared was about his turtle hunting, which he got his picture in the paper holding his catch. His family and friends often heard about his mom’s homemade bread and other goodies that she made. The Squirrel is well known for his storytelling.

Carl had been drafted into the Army in 1955 for a two year tour of duty. He served at several forts, one being Forts Sill, Oklahoma. He ended up in Alaska not far from the arctic circle. Because of his experience there, he grew to love Alaska, and returned when he could.

On May 21st, 1961, Carl married Barbara; they shared 62 years together. It was thought that he pursued her first, but it was her who went after him. Barbara stole his treats at work and ran off with the work rag he had in his pocket. One of their personal joys was going out in that nature he loved so and picking flowers to display at home.

Carl was a mini entrepreneur. He had worked for businesses like Paw Paw Plating and Welch’s, but always found ways to make money through making a public network and using his imagination. When he was a child he sold worms. Later in life, he baked, made jewelry, sold stuff he had collected, had his own trash route, and eventually got into what he was most known for, tree work. Many people were amazed at his unique tree removal skills. He served people in this way from the early 1970’s up until he was in his late 80’s. Carl never became incredibly monetarily rich, but enjoyed making money in his way that provided for his family.

He is survived by his sister, Margaret Hendricks, stepdaughter Laura (Kendall) Whiting, his daughters Karen (Jim) Vettese, Theresa (Jeff) Skapnit, and Julie (Bill) Pierce. He was a proud grandpa of eight grand children, six great grandchildren, and one step great, great grandchild. He was preceded in death by wife, Barbara, his infant son, Michael, his parents, Phil and Helen, and his sister Gertrude.

Memorial service will be held at the Paw Paw Seventh Day Adventist Church with visitation at 10:30 and the service at 11:30 on October 26th, 2025; 60409 M-40. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall of the church.

John S. Orange

John S. Orange, of Kalamazoo, formerly of Paw Paw, passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at the age of 76. He was a beloved educator and dedicated family man. Born on July 20, 1949, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, John was the son of Stephen and Helen (Simpkins) Orange. John was a remarkable individual whose warmth and kindness touched the lives of many.

John’s educational journey began in his small hometown where he graduated from Mount Vernon High School with the Class of 1967. His early involvement in the marching band playing the clarinet showcased his artistic side, which would continue to flourish throughout his life. He furthered his education by earning a bachelor’s degree from Albion College, a foundation that would shape his future endeavors.

John was not only an outstanding educator but also a devoted husband and father. He was immensely proud of his marriage to his wife, Tally, whom he married on July 1, 1972, at the Franklin Community Church in Ohio. Together, they raised their two daughters, Jennifer and Kara, in the nurturing community of Paw Paw, Michigan. His love and dedication as a father were unwavering, and he cherished his role as a grandfather to Isabelle, A.J., and Nico.

For over 30 years, John dedicated his life to teaching Math and Art in the Marcellus School system. His commitment to the education and well-being of his students was evident in the love and support he provided to the kids in that community. Renowned for his gentle spirit and great sense of humor, John was a kind and helpful presence who made a lasting impression on those fortunate enough to be his students.

John had a passion for celebrating the festive season, particularly Christmas, a time when he would bring joy to his family through his love for decoration and gift-giving. He also had a deep bond with the family dogs over the years, reflecting his caring nature. Around the house he enjoyed working in his flower garden and his art projects.

After retiring early, John found happiness in exploring the world alongside Tally, enriching their lives with diverse experiences and adventures. His family-oriented disposition and supportive nature created a comforting home environment that will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

John S. Orange leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and laughter. His impact on the lives of his family, friends, and students will resonate for years to come, and he will be missed dearly.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Stephen and Helen Orange.

John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Tally; two daughters: Jennifer (Thomas) Coulson, of Holt; Kara (Jeffrey) Mason, of Commerce Twp; three grandchildren: Isabelle, A.J, and Nico. He is also survived by his brother: Richard (Nicki Parkis) Orange, of OH.

John has been cremated. A small private Celebration of Life will take place at a future time.

While at www.amsfuneralhomes.com please take time to sign John’s guestbook and/or share your favorite memory with his family. The Orange family is being cared for by the Avink, McCowen & Secord Funeral Homes and Cremation Society, 5975 Lovers Lane, Portage, MI 49002 (269) 344-5600

Area Church Services

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Friday AA - 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
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269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY Worship @10:45am
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657-2090
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on Facebook:
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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
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www.pawpaw.church
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269-657-7727
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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
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www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship

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Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
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THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

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(In person and on Facebook)

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mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
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www.decaturbible.org

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Pastor Ross Tarantino
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TUESDAY Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
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info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

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northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
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Monday: 7 pm - Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

PPFD talks fire prevention to 700 students

Teaching Fire Safety to Paw Paw students

Classroom Fire Safety taught by Paw Paw Fire Department

With October designated as Fire Prevention Month, over the past several weeks the Paw Paw Fire Department visited schools to teach and talk about safety to more than 700 students during that time. In photos, Paw Paw Fire Department Second Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Hall is shown in a Paw Paw Early Elementary classroom. Students then got to walk through a fire truck that was parked outside.

Students Learn about Fire Trucks

Jazz Pianist Xavier Davis brings jazz to Scott Club

By James Windell

Xavier Davis says that venues like the Scott Club are extremely valuable in bringing live music to the community.

Besides that, he loves playing in intimate settings. "I like music to be personal," Davis said during a recent phone interview. "I like to connect to an artist, and I always feel I know him a little bit better when I hear the music live. When it's in an intimate setting that makes it even more possible. I want to share a piece of myself with the audience."

When jazz pianist Xavier Davis performs on the grand piano on the warm and friendly second floor at the historic Scott Club on Sunday October 19, 2025, it will be just like he's playing in his own living room. And the program, he says, will be tailored to the setting and the audience. "I don't have a set plan for what I'm going to play because I really like to see what the moment is calling for," he says. "I've written a lot of music, and I play a lot of standards, but I want it to be appropriate for that moment."

Davis grew up in Grand Rapids with a musical family. Both parents are music educators and he says he was always surrounded by music of every category. He started playing the piano when he was four, and his mother was his first teacher. But it wasn't until he was in high school that he fell in love with jazz.

"The musician who did it for me was Wynton Kelly," he recalls. "He was the person who made me want to play jazz because there was so much joy in his music and everything that he played felt good. I wanted to be able to do that." Wynton Kelly was the pianist during the 1950s with the Miles Davis group. He played on the Miles Davis album "Kind of Blue," which is often said to be one of the greatest jazz albums of all time.

As a teenager, Xavier Davis was a student at Interlochen Center for the Arts in northern Michigan every summer. "My roommate one year was a bassist from New York," he says, "and he had a collection of jazz records, and we would listen to his albums and try to sound just like the musicians we were hearing. He wanted to be Paul Chambers, and I wanted to be Wynton Kelly."

But it was also one summer at Interlochen music camp that he heard another pianist. "I was in the dorm and someone was playing a record and I remember it to this day. It was an album called 'Double Take' with Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw, and I heard a pianist playing as part of the group. I immediately wanted to know who the pianist was. I didn't understand what he was playing, but it sounded both familiar cand unfamiliar at the same time."

The pianist on that Blue Note album was Mulgrew Miller and Davis started listening to every record he could find on which Miller played. "Later, Mulgrew heard me play at a competition at Notre Dame and he really took me under his wings," Davis says. "I got to know him both musically and personally. It was inspiring to have someone so humble and such a monster on his instrument take an interest in me."

He had other well-known jazz musicians who mentored him. One was vocalist Betty Carter, a jazz singer who was important in his career in more than one way. "She was my first professional jazz gig," Davis says, "and I stayed with her for almost two years. I toured all around the world with her and saw a lot of things I had never seen before."

But playing with Carter, who was in her late 60s when he became her pianist, was not easy. "I was just 22 and it was very stressful at times because I was always afraid of getting fired. But I learned so much about myself and about the music. I learned about audiences and how to interact with them. Some of the things and the different ideas I got from her I still try to turn my students on to today."

What made the gig with Carter so stressful was that she was less like a vocalist and more like an instrumentalist. "She didn't want us to play the standard, singer-comping type stuff," Davis explains. "She wanted us to treat her more like an instrumentalist. And the music always had to swing. I really learned the importance of swing and what it meant."

However, he remembers that Carter would call him and the other musicians out in front of audiences if she didn't like the way they were playing. And she would threaten to fire them. "While it had a positive kind of effect on me," he says, "and it made me be really serious about the swing music, I wouldn't want to relive it, but I am really thankful that I had the experience."

Davis says he wouldn't treat his students like that because there are better ways to motivate them and teach them lessons. For the past 12 years he has been teaching in the Jazz Studies program at Michigan State University School of Music. Prior to that, he taught at Julliard for six years.

He is the regular pianist in the Christian McBride Big Band and an album they recorded, "The Good Feeling," won a GRAMMY award in 2012. He has recorded three albums as a leader, including "Dance of Life" and "The Innocence of Youth."

The Xavier Davis concert takes place at the Scott Club, 652 Phoenix Street, South Haven on Sunday, October 19 at 3:00 pm. The concert is free and open to all. It is requested that you RSVP by October 17 at info@scottclub.org in order to attend.

The concert will be livestreamed on the Scott Club Facebook page and at Foundry Hall Twitch channel: https://www.twitch.tv/foundryhall.

South Haven to hold sessions for Overton Housing Development

By James Windell

The City of South Haven and Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids will be holding three Community Engagement Sessions centered around the proposed development of the Overton Property.

The Overton Property at the corner of Elkenburg Street and Indiana Venue, South Haven, has been the center of controversy for several years. The City has seen the 5.5-acre site as a unique opportunity for affordable housing, and an 85-unit development which includes apartments, duplexes, and single-family homes has been proposed. However, the contamination and engineering hurdles have raised public concerns about safety, feasibility, and transparency. Despite these obstacles, Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids, has been committed to the project, emphasizing its long-term potential to address housing shortages in South Haven.

According to South Haven's Assistant City Manager Michael Landis, "We are excited to welcome the Dwelling Place to lead some community engagement sessions on the proposed affordable housing development on the Overton Parcel. The City has been working with Dwelling Place since selecting them as a developer earlier this year. Their team will host three sessions over the next couple of months and welcome all community members."

Dwelling Place is seeking input and feedback from residents and stakeholders during the three engagement sessions. The sessions are viewed by both the City and Dwelling place as an opportunity for neighbors to engage with the developer as the plans for development proceed.

Landis indicates that each of the three sessions will have a different focus. "The first session, on October 20, will introduce the developer and highlight their experience with housing projects," Landis said. "They will present site outlines and preliminary plans while gathering input and feedback from community members."

Landis went on to say that in the November 3 session the team will share refined plans based on insights and feedback from the first meeting. "This discussion will focus on home design concepts and a more detailed building review," he said.

The final session on November 17 will feature near-final materials prepared for presentation to city boards and commissions. "The team will also outline the next steps in the process and share the anticipated project timeline," Landis said.

Each of the three sessions will meet at two different times: Afternoon Sessions at 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm; Evening Sessions at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Dates and Topics are October 20: Community Asset Mapping and Design Feedback; November 3: Building and Home Design Feedback; and November 17: Final Design and Next Steps. All sessions will be held at Resurrection Life /Emmanuel Community Church, 322 Elkenburg, South Haven, not far from the Over Project site.

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Section B

SH Soccer advances to final after win over Paw Paw

The Rams' Levi DeLaRosa and the Red Wolves' Enzo Tavela battle for possession of the ball.

Paw Paw's Pablo Soro splits the South Haven defense in first half action.

Paw Paw's Grant Sholander advances the ball in first half action.

Wings West to reopen under new ownership

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

When the owners of Wings West announced that they were closing the beloved Texas Township hockey facility, members of the local community were all but silent.

Thousands took to social media, news outlets, and the internet, to express sadness and concern, hoping someone would save the arena. Discover Kalamazoo even stepped in, meeting with local ice user groups to assess the area's future ice needs and capacity.

Many signed a change.org petition created by Nathan Johnson, who said Wings West is an essential "community connection" and "a critical piece of the community's fabric," where the youth can "continue cultivating their athletic skills, learning teamwork, and building character."

It was this extraordinary community support and sentiment that inspired Black Bear Sports Group to step up to the plate. In an October 7th letter written by the Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association's President, Kelly Felton, she announced that Black Bear plans to purchase Wings West from its previous owners, Stadium Management Corporation (SMC).

Felton also stated that "while there are still many unknowns, this news represents a positive step toward preserving local ice availability for skaters and families throughout the greater Kalamazoo area. Black Bear has a strong track record of revitalizing rinks and growing skating programs."

According to their website, Black Bear Sports Group aims to "protect, strengthen, and expand access to hockey and ice sports, by preserving rinks, supporting player development, and fostering strong skating communities." The Maryland-based company specializes in preserving failing ice arenas that serve as community cornerstones. They currently operate over 40 ice rinks across the country, including six in Eastern Michigan.

CEO Murray N. Gunty, said Black Bear is proud to protect Wings West's legacy, "while making the investments needed to strengthen its future. Our goal is to make sure every skater, coach, and fan in Kalamazoo has a high-quality place to call home."

In addition to fully repairing the refrigeration equipment that caused the facility's initial closure, Black Bear plans to support Wings West "with full integration of its growth of the game initiatives, programs, leagues, tournaments, player ascension, events, on-line uniform and apparel stores", and their streaming platform, Black Bear TV.

SMC Managing Director, Brad VandenBerg, says he "is thrilled to see Wings West in the capable hands of Black Bear Sports Group, who are known for delivering top-tier experiences for athletes and fans alike. It has been our pleasure serving the ice sports community in Kalamazoo over the years, and we're excited to see the ice facility's next chapter unfold."

For now, Wings West will remain closed as updates and repairs are made, but Black Bear promises to have it open by the 2026-2027 season. More about their group can be found at https:// blackbearsportsgroup.com

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Two rescued from sinking cruiser

Saugatuck Fire Department assisted in the rescue of two people from a sinking 37-foot cruiser in Lake Michigan about three miles off the Casco Township Nature Preserve on Sunday afternoon. Coast Guard from St. Joseph was also on-scene. South Haven Area Emergency Services also assisted with first locating the cruiser with its drone. Photo by Tom Renner.

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Gobles runners continue to have success

Gobles girls have had another strong season.

Libby Smith was the meet champion for the 3rd consecutive year.

Lauren Shaffer brought home all-league honors.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES —Thursday night the Tigers traveled to the Gilmore Car Museum to compete in the final SAC Jamboree of the year.

"It was a cool sunny dry fall afternoon and the competition level was excellent," coach Marc Kline said. "The girls placed fourth just a tie breaker behind Martin and tied with Martin for third over all in the SAC.

"The boys finishe fifth on Thursday improving from their 6th place finish after the 2nd Jamboree.

Libby Smith was the meet champion for the 3rd consecutive year clocking a time of 18:26.6. Lauren Shaffer and Ava DeYoung brought home SAC All-Conference honors home for the 3rd consecutive year as well.

Madison Cooley now has been SAC All-Conference or SAC All-Conference Honorable Mention recipient every year of her high school career.

Fletcher Amos received SAC All-Conference honors while Cole Ringel and Jaxon Bunce also were SAC All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Taylor Cooley (24:30.4), Jaxon Bunce (18:47.9), Titus Sager (20:25.5), and Easton Piper (21:14.8) all set Personal Records.

Lawrence to add four Hall of Fame inductees

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence High School will be having Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies this Friday at halftime of the football game,

The honorees are Ricky Aranda, Steve Blum, Bert Goens and Barry Sisson.

Ricky Aranda was Male Athlete of the year 1988.

In football, he was team MVP his junior year and all-Conference on offense and defense.

For baseball, he was all-conference Selection, he was first-team All Conference (outfield).

For basketball, he was team MVP his junior year. He was leading scorer averaging 15.6 points per game and first-team All-Conference

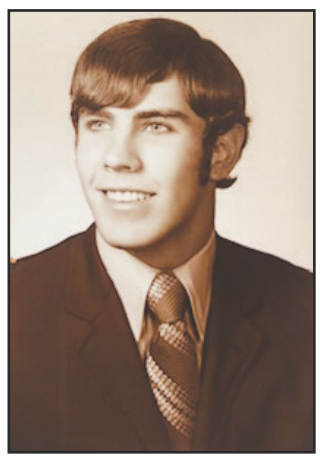
For track and field, he was an All-State finalist and sixth in the state in the 400 meters.

Goens is from the Class of 1955.

At Lawrence High School he was a four-year letter winner in basketball and two-time all-conference team. He was a multi-year starter. In baseball, he was a four-year letter winner and multi-year starter.

In Lawrence, the Bert Goens Learning Center, named in his honor, commemorates his many years of steadfast dedication to educating children.

Blum was Class of 2000. He earned 12 varsity letters and was 2000 male athlete of the year. The football team was 1997 state champion and first team All-State selection. He was three-time first-team all-conference offense and defense and a four-year varsity



Barry Sisson was Class of 1972 and was Lawrence High School Athlete of the Year.

starter.

In basketball, he's a four-time first team all-conference and a first team All state selection and four-year varsity starter and scored 1,611 points (school record). In baseball he was second team all-conference selection, three-year starter, and was track and field varsity letter award winner.

Sisson was Class of 1972.

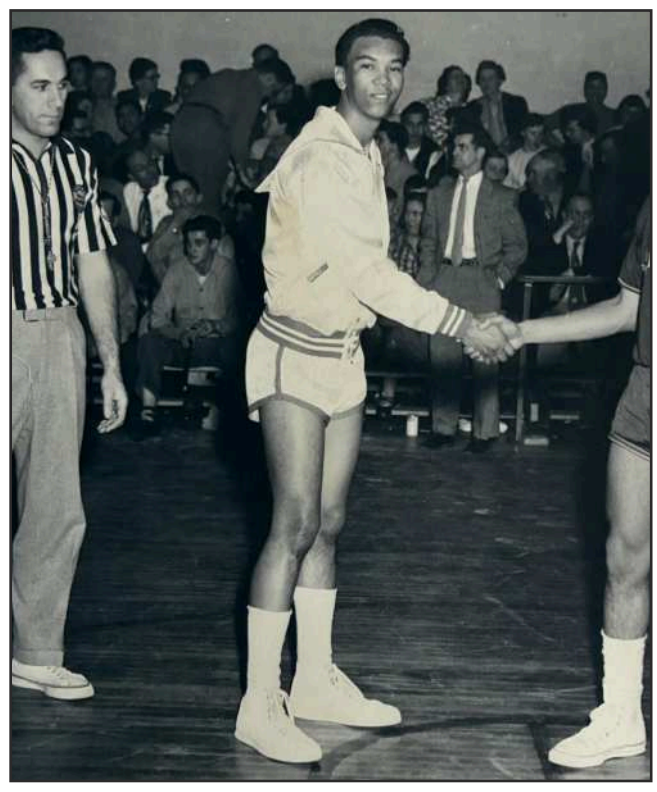
He was Lawrence High School Athlete of the Year.

For football his sophomore year:

- Southwestern Michigan Area Leading Scorer – 120 points.
- All-Conference – Offense & Defense.
- Associated Press Class D Special Mention.

Junior Year:

- Southwestern Michigan Area Leading Scorer – 120 points/



Bert Goens at Lawrence High School was a four-year letter winner in basketball and two-time all-conference team.

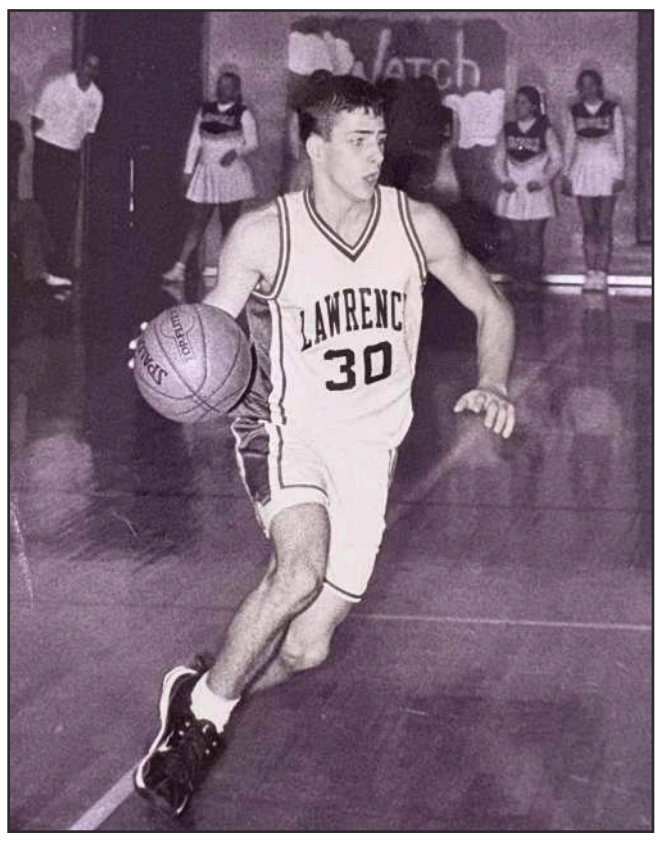
- All-Conference – Offense.
- Southwestern Michigan All-Stars – Running Back.
- Associated Press Class D All-State – Running Back (First All-Stater for Lawrence High School).

Senior Year:

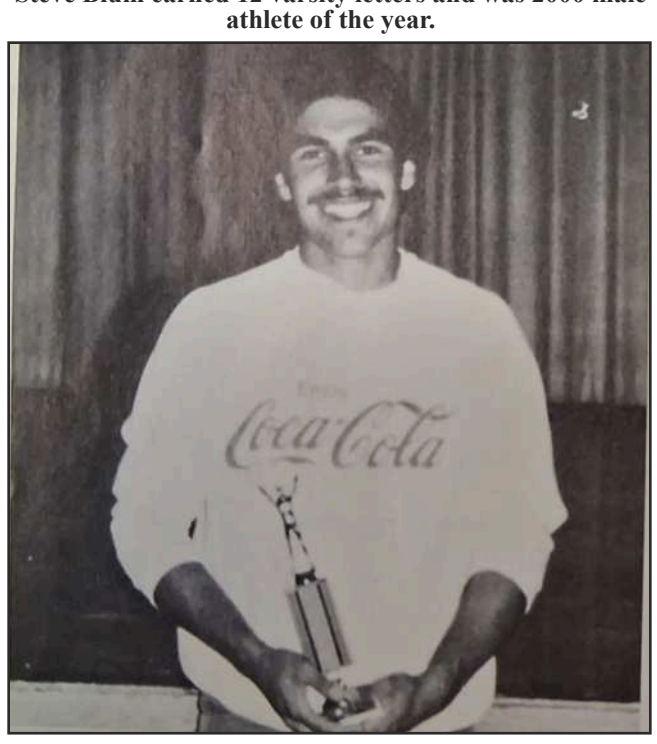
- All-Conference – Offense & Defense.
- Southwestern Michigan All-Stars – Linebacker.
- Associated Press Class D All-State – Running back.
- Finished high school football career with over 3,500 yards of total offense and 315 points scored.

In baseball, he was an all-comference outfielder.

He was on the track team and took this place in the 100 dash at the state meet. He is the current co-holder of the Lawrence High School Track 100-yard dash record – 10.2 seconds.



Steve Blum earned 12 varsity letters and was 2000 male athlete of the year.



Ricky Aranda was Male Athlete of the year 1988.

Lawton too much for Coloma

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's football team improved to 4-3 with a 70-27 win on Friday night over Coloma.

Lawton had quarter leads of 7-0, 35-21 and 56-27 and outscored Coloma 14-0 in the final quarter.

Lawton scored in the first quarter on a 11-yard run by Caiden Mitchell. In the second quarter, Brady Quick had touchdown runs of 24 and 28 yards. Wyatt Streeter had a 60-yard run and Jack Fletcher a 33-yard pass.

Greyson Burrous had TD runs of 42 and 45 yards in the third quarter. Mitchell added a 10-yard scoring run.

Lawton netted touchdown runs of seven yards from Brody Camp and 34 from Hudson Merriman.

Both teams ran 62 plays. Lawton had a 639-424 advantage in total yards, and 606-118 in rushing, plus a 25-15 edge in first downs. Streeter rushed 13 times for 154 yards, Burrous 11 times for 130 yards, Mitchell 15 times for 109 yards and five times for 60 yards. Quick had five carries for 60 yards.

Dillon Carlson had seven tackles for Lawton and one tackle for loss.

Lawton is 5-2 and is at Saugauck on Oct. 17.

Paw Paw football overpowers Otsego

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's football team improved its record to 4-1 for a second-place tie in the Wolverine Conference and 4-3 overall with Friday's 34-20 win over Otsego (1-4, 3-4).

Ben Miller had an 81-yard touchdown run in the first quarter and JJ Varney booted the extra point for a 7-0 lead. Otsego came back to tie the game.

The Wolves came back on.a 17-yard Miller touchdown run in the first quarter for a 13-7 lead. Otsego tied it 13-13 in the second. Mille had his third rushing TD of the day from 7 yards out and Varney booted the extra point.

Otsego scored the third to tie it 20-20.

For Paw Paw, Carter Bull had a 4-yard scoring run in the third and Elias Sonneberg a 49-yard scoring jaunt in the fourth while Varney kicked both extra points to make it 34-20.

Miller had 226 yards rushing. Sonneberg had 20 yards.

On defense, Silas Penning had six solo tackles, one interception and one pass breakup.

Paw Paw will play at Three Rivers on Oct. 17 and ends the regular season on Oct. 24 at home with Vicksburg. Both are league games.

Paw Paw runners take fourth

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw cross country boys team was third and the girls fourth on October, 9 in the Rock-N-Run invitational at Dowagiac.

St. Joseph was first for the boys at 48 while Buchanan was second at 52 and Paw Paw third at 53.

Top runners for Paw Paw were Christopher Vogt in third (16:36.3), Landon Lindsey sixth (16:5.9), Grant Krause ninth (17:36.3), Brady Meloche 13th (18:07.0), and Frank Wunderlich 22nd (19:04.3).

Paw Paw girls had a score of 95. St. Joseph was first with 35.

Hayden Lemieux was seventh for Paw Paw at 20:46.1 Avery Huff was ninth at 20:54.5, Sopia Lemieux 26th at 23:29.5 and Alivia Shipley 27th at 23:31.8 and Isabella Shipley was 36th at 24:21.5

Paw Paw tennis set for state finals

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW— Coach Matt Baleja's Paw Paw soccer team took second place in the Division 4 regional on Oct. 9 at Bronson and earned a spot at the state finals which are set for Oct. 20 and 21 in Midland.

Leading the way for Paw Paw are Simon Geffre and Ethan Grover who are 27-2 at the moment.

"They were also conference champions and regional champions," Baleja said. "All four nobles flights were conference champions and all of them earned first-team all-conference honors."

Paw Paw volleyball

PAW PAW — Paw Paw' volleyball squad is currently sporting a 7-14-1 record.

The Wolves won Oct. 11 in the Swivel Memorial Tournament 25-21, 25-8 over Fennville and lost 25-12, 25-21 to Hopkins.

In previous matches, Paw Paw lost 25-23, 25-23, 25-19 to Otsego; 26-24 18-25, 25-23, 16-25. 9-15 to Sturgis; 25-9, 25-25 to Battle Creek Pnnfield; and beat Kalamazoo Central 2-0.

Gobles overpowers Muskegon Heights

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers proved unstoppable Friday night, rolling past Muskegon Heights 46–18 behind a dominant rushing attack and timely defensive plays.

Gobles piled up 449 total yards, including an impressive 346 on the ground, while limiting the Muskegon Heights offense. The Tigers' balanced attack featured multiple playmakers who kept the Muskegon Heights defense on their heels.

Offensive Highlights:

Nathan Ray led the ground charge with 110 yards on 5 carries and a touchdown, including several long, explosive runs.

Case Lord added 78 rushing yards and two touchdowns, while completing both of his pass attempts for 30 yards and two touchdowns.

Brett Ivester hauled in 3 catches for 39 yards and a touchdown, and Hunter Piper contributed a 13-yard touchdown reception.

Overall, the team converted 5 of 6 two-point attempts,

demonstrating efficiency in scoring opportunities.

Gobles' offensive line also made a statement, opening lanes for 14 broken tackles and 125 yards after contact. The Tigers' ability to mix the run and pass kept Muskegon Heights off balance throughout the contest.

Defensive Highlights:

Steven Juarez led the way with 10 tackles, 2 for loss, and a sack.

Danny Timms made a huge impact with a 37-yard interception return, while Aiden Beam and Piper contributed 8 and 7 tackles, respectively.

The defense forced a takeaway and consistently applied pressure, keeping the Tigers' advantage comfortable.

With the win, Gobles improves to 5-2 and will aim to keep the momentum in I next matchup against Wyoming Lee at home for senior night. Gobles has a 5-2 record.

Paw Paw soccer season ends

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw boys season came to an end Monday night in district semi finals vs South Haven.

In a competitive back and forth game South Haven got a goal late in the second half to pull ahead 3-2. The Wolves had several opportunities but couldn't get the tying goal and the game ended 3-2.

Scoring both goals was Enzo Tavela with both assists coming from Grant Sholander.

Paw Paw's season ended with a 14-6-1 record. Prior to the loss to South Haven, the Wolves had one six in a row 8-2 over Otsego, 8-0 over Dowagiac, 8-1 over Three River, 3-2 over Vicksburg, 6–0 over Buchanan and 8-0 (in first round of districts) over Hopkins.

South Haven improved to 14-4-4 and will play Fennville on Oct. 15 for the district title at Comstock.

Bloomingdale's soccer season ended at 13-3-3 on Monday with a 4-1 loss to Grandville Calvin Christian.

Kalamazoo Hackett defeats South Haven

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep improved to 4-0 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference and 5-2 overall with Friday's 33-0 blanking of South Haven, 2-2 in the league and 3-4 overall.
South Haven was own 7-0 after the first quarter, 19-0 at halftime and 26-0 after three periods.
South Haven had eight first downs. Jake Bosma had 49 yards rushing while Quin Hayes had 57 yards. Blake Slake had 18 yards of pass receiving while Rowland Ryker had 14 and Michael Fricke had 13.
On defense for South Haven, Rowan Fonseca and Jake Bosma had 10 tackles apiece, Grayson Knox had eight tackles, Quin Hayes had seven tackles and Rowland Ryker had six tackles.
South Haven has two games left at home to round out the regular season: on Oct. 17 vs. Allegan and on Oct. 24 for Galesburg-Augusta.

St. Joseph Our Lady of the Lakes 64, Bangor 20
Bangor fell to 1-5 in the Southwest Michigan 8-Man football league and 2-5 overall with this Friday loss to Our Lady of the Lakes.
Jorge Dominguez had two rushing touchdowns and a passing TD to his brother Aaron Dominguez. Ethan Neilson also added an interception on defense.

PUBLIC NOTICE

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
1. Publication Title: Courier-Leader
2. Publication No. 564-620
3. Filing Date 10/14/2025
4. Issue Frequency: Weekly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 52
6. Annual Subscription Price: $55 in-state, $70 out-of-state
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 241 Hubbard St, Allegan, MI 49010
8. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher: 241 Hubbard St, Allegan, MI 49010
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: R. Michael Wilcox, 241 Hubbard St, Allegan, MI 49010.
Editor: Same as above.
Managing Editor: Same as above.
10. Owner: Full Names and Complete mailing Addresses: Wilcox Newspapers, LLC., 241 Hubbard St, Allegan, MI 49010
R. Michael Wilcox, 241 Hubbard St, Allegan, MI 49010
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None.
13. Publication Title: Courier-Leader
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/02/2025.
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:
Avg. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months/No. Copies of single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date:
a. Total No. Copies
2000 2000
b. Paid Circulation
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66 61
2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541
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17. Publication of State of Ownership Publication. Will be printed in the 10/16/2025 issue of this publication.
18. (Signed)
R. Michael Wilcox,
Publisher/Owner
Date: 10/14/2025

PORTER TOWNSHIP
Van Buren County
88040 M-40 Lawton, MI 49065
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – four guests.
Motion by Smith with support by Nesbitt to appoint the following election inspectors for the November 4, 2025 election:
Karen Churchill, Republican – Co-Chairperson
Brenda Nesbitt, Republican – AV Chairperson
Laura Rice, Democrat – Co-Chairperson
Tammy Riggs, Republican – Receiving Board
Martha Wright, Democrat – Receiving Board
Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Public Accuracy Test for the November 4, 2025 election will be held Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 6:00 pm
Motion by Smith with support by Nesbitt to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Regular Meeting
September 10, 2025
Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and five guests.
Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 13, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Packer with support by Bitely to approve cemetery price increases for non-resident plots from $500 to $1200, and increase burial cost from $450 to $600. Roll vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Smith with support by Nesbitt to approve a penalty increase for not registering a Short-Term Rental, to be double the amount of the permit application fee for first violation. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1163-DE
Judge Susan Metzger
Estate of
TIMOTHY EUGENE YARBROUGH, Deceased,
Date of Birth: February 20, 1960 (2/20/1960)

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Timothy Eugene Yarbrough, died September 17,2025 (9/17/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Stacy Figg** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
October 14, 2025
Attorney:
Albert W. Laaksonen, II
P43920
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative:
Stacy Figg
34999 38th Ave
Paw Paw MI 49079
616-304-6468

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
VAN BUREN COUNTY
Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 2025 1156 DE
Estate of CAROL A. DOMBKOWSKI, Deceased
Date of birth: November 29, 1941
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Carol A. Dombkowski, who lived in Keeler Township, Dowagiac, Michigan, died August 27, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Robert D. Dombkowski, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Date: October 13, 2025
Robert D. Dombkowski
66816 Lake Drive
Dowagiac, MI 49047
269-876-6661
JONATHAN B. SAUER, P19907
Sauer & Sauer, PLC
414 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-0531

State of Michigan
Probate Court
County of Van Buren
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Trust Estate
Decedent: **DUSTIN M. UNGER**
Date of birth: April 12,1972 (4/12/1972)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **DUSTIN M. UNGER,** who lived at 38648 24th Avenue, Gobles, Michigan 49055 died August 22,2925 (8/22/2025)
There is no probate estate.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Dustin M. Unger or the **Dustin M. Unger Revocable Trust dated May 23,2025 (5/23/2025)**, will be forever barred unless presented to **Kelsey Mathis,** the named successor trustee within 4 months after the date of publication.
October 9, 2025
Attorney:
Charles S. Ofstein #P76256
DeMent and Marquardt, PLC
211 E. Water Street, Suite 401
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269)343-2106
Trustee:
Kelsey Mathis
39787 Rita Drive
Clinton Township, MI 48038

State of Michigan Probate Court
County of Van Buren
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF STEPHEN P. KOENIG, DECEASED
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
All Unknown Heirs whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE:
I have submitted a Notice of Intent to Request Informal Appointment of Personal Representative to Van Buren County Probate Court.
The actions you may take include upon paying a filing fee, filling a petition for formal proceedings to appoint a personal representative and/or filling a application for informal appointment of yourself as personal representative provided you have a higher priority to be appointed and/ or contacting an attorney for assistant in representing you in any proceedings you with to file in the court.
August 27,2025
Attorney
Nicole M. Laruwe #P75562
7 West Square Lake Road
Bloomingfield Hills, MI 48302
248-648-1148
Petitioner
Dan Frankfort
59 Chestnut Avenue
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
847-530-0458

State of Michigan
36th Judicial District
Judicial Circuit
Van Buren County
Order Regarding Alternate Service
Case NO. 25-074804-CK
Denis Walker Plaintiffs
v.
Thomas Demarest
36862 49th Ave.,
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
Defendant.
Plaintiffs Attorney
Hamilton Law, PLC
Philip Hamilton (P68814)
3431 Oakland Dr.,
Kalamazoo Michigan 49008
(269)488-8394
THE COURT FINDS:
☑ 1. Service of process upon the defendant,Thomas Demarest ,
cannot reasonably be made as provided in ☑MCR 2.105 ☐MCR 2.107(B)(1)(b) and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an
opportunity to be heard.
IT IS ORDERED:
☑ 2. Service of the ☑ summons and complaint ☐other:_____ and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
☑a. First-class mail to .
☑b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at .
☐c. Delivering at to a member of the defendant's household who is of suitable age and discretion to receive process, with instructions to deliver it promptly to the defendant.
☑d. Other: Publication pursuant to MCR 2.106
For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.
3. The motion for alternate service is denied.
Judge Signature and Date
Susan Metzger P62867
8/25/2025

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: JAMIE WRZESINSKI VS DONLAD D SCHULTZ; ATTY: ANDREW BARNES - ANDREW BARNES; 1ST PUB: 10/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-074887-CH; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
"CASE NO. 25-074887-CH
JAMIE WRZESINSKI and ALICA WRZESINSKI, Plaintiffs,
v.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNEES OF DONALD D. SCHULTZ; EUGENE K. SCHULTZ (AKA EUGENE K. SCHULTZ, SR.), Defendants.
Plaintiffs' Attorney, Bar No., Address, and Telephone No.:
Andrew W. Barnes (P70571)
Zachary T. Revoldt (P87802)
BUTZEL LONG, P.C.
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
(269) 287-2010
An action seeking to quiet title to the following described real property located in the Township of Columbia, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan has been commenced by Plaintiffs, JAMIE WRZESINSKI and ALICA WRZESINSKI, against Defendants, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNEES OF DONALD D. SCHULTZ; EUGENE K. SCHULTZ (AKA EUGENE K. SCHULTZ, SR.):
THE WEST 792.00 FEET OF THE NORTH 330.00 FEET OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 19; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 19, 528.49 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST 330.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST 792.00 FEET TO THE EAST ONE EIGHTH LINE OF SECTION 19; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID ONE EIGHTH LINE 330.00 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 19; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE 792.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING;
Tax Parcel Nos.: 80-06-019-001-31, 80-06-019-001-16, and 80-06-019-001-35.
[(hereinafter, the "Property")].
The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, and Assignees of Donald D. Schultz (hereinafter, the "Defendants") must answer the current legal action or take other action permitted by law within 28 days after the last date of publication. Defendants' answer must be filed with the Van Buren County Circuit Court, which is located at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079.
If Defendants do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against them for the relief demanded in the Complaint."

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Rhonda S Johnston; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: 25-002634-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Rhonda S. Johnston, a single person Original Mortgagee: Summit National Mortgage, LLC Date of mortgage: June 27, 2012 Recorded on July 3, 2012, Liber 1569, on Page 649, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): M&T Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Five and 40/100 Dollars ($57,245.40) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: That part of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, described as beginning at a point found by commencing at the center of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof, thence South along the Eighth line 520.84 feet to a point which is 7.74 chains South of the intersection of said Eighth line and the centerline of Paw Paw Road, thence North 89 degrees 15` West 410.84 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 240.0 feet, thence North 89 degrees 15` West to the center line of said road, thence Northeasterly on same to a point which is North 89 degrees 15` West of beginning, thence South 89 degrees 15` East to beginning. Commonly known as 36731 Paw Paw Rd, Paw Paw, MI 49079
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
M&T Bank Mortgagee/Assignee
Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.
23938 Research Dr, Suite 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248.539.7400
1572956
(09-25)(10-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen; Atty: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1st Pub: 10/2/2025; Atty File #: MI-005529; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen a/k/a Gerrit P. Oppenhuizen, the original Mortgagor; and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee; dated May 16, 2016, and recorded on May 18, 2016, in Liber 1636, at Page 341, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan; and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee; as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 7, 2019, in Liber 1687, at Page 614, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five and 76/100 U.S. Dollars ($63,375.76). Said premise is situated at 11111 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055, in the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE 979.09 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 340.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 385.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 340.25 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST 385.28 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 09/25/2025
For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-005529-24-2
(10-02)(10-23)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Craig Klapp; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: 525780F01; Insurer: FNMA Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Craig Andrew Klapp, as a single man
Original Mortgagee: Honor Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: December 14, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 21, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $99,092.94
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 2 and 3 and the South 8 feet of Lot 1, Block 9, Hartman's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the plat thereof recorded in liber 1 of plats, Page 74, Van Buren County Records
Common street address (if any): 409 Hubbard St, South Haven, MI 49090-1522
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 25, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1572669
(09-25)(10-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Hernan Hernandez; Atty: Shaheen - Shaheen Jacobs & Ross PC; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (Van Buren County) NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County (at the front steps of the Courthouse in Paw Paw, Michigan), starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of the junior mortgage made by Hernan Hernandez and Maritsa Hernandez, husband and wife, as original mortgagors, to The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association, as original mortgagee, dated June 3, 2019, and recorded on June 17, 2019, at the Van Buren County, Michigan Register of Deeds, in Liber 1685, commencing on Page 534. The amount claimed to be due on this mortgage, on the date of this notice, was $32,489.47. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office

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PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To: The residents and property owners of Pine Grove Township, Van Buren County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals of Pine Grove Township will hold a meeting and public hearing on Friday, November 7, 2025 commencing at 3:00 p.m., at the Pine Grove Township Hall, 26520 CR 388, within the Township, to consider the following:

1. Variance request by applicants Casey & Caitlin VanDuinen, for a 0.977 acre variance to the minimum parcel size of 2 acres and a 97.09 feet variance to the 150 foot minimum parcel width to allow for a land division creating a 1.023 acre parcel and reduced parcel width on the parent parcel. The parcel is owned by Kevin & Angela Killeen and is located at 18922 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055. The Parcel ID is 80-15-030-002-01 and is 42.21 acres in size. The parcel is in the A – Agricultural zoning district. Section 6.01 of the Township Zoning Ordinance contains the minimum size and width of properties in the A zoning district. Section 11.03 of the zoning ordinance sets the standards for review of the request.
2. Such other business as may properly come before the Zoning Board of Appeals at said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the ZBA intends to hold its meeting in person at the Township Hall. All persons are invited to attend and participate regarding the above request.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the application and Zoning Ordinance can be reviewed by contacting the Township Clerk and will also be available at the hearing. Written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk at the address set forth below up to 12:00 p.m. on the date of said hearing and will further be received by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the time of said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the office of the Township Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk at least five (5) days prior to the hearing.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI 49055 • 269-628-5393

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page B3

or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The description of the mortgaged premises is all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Arlington, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan further described as follows: Lot 12, Bangor Heights, according to the recorded plat thereof. ALSO Lot 8, Supervisor's Plat of Zuhl Addition to Bangor, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, page 40, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as: 56844 M 43 Hwy., Bangor, MI and 56821 Orchard Ln., Bangor, MI The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or when the time to provide the notice required by MCLA 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later or unless the redemption period is shortened in accordance with MCLA 600.3238. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA 600.3278, the borrower and mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Shaheen, Jacobs & Ross, P.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect this debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Dated: September 15, 2025
The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association
Mortgagee SHAHEEN, JACOBS & ROSS, P.C. By: Michael J. Thomas, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 615 Griswold Street, Suite 1425 Detroit, Michigan 48226-3993 (313) 963-1301
(09-25)(10-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Denise A. Hill; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 25-012407; Insurer: FNMA

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jeffery M. Hill and Denise A. Hill, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2003 and recorded July 30, 2003 in Liber 1391, Page 489 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-One and 41/100 Dollars ($90,321.41).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lots 45 and 46 Parascandolo Addition No. 1, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, on Page 16 and as amended by Van Buren County Circuit Court as recorded in Liber 476 on Page 368.
122 Paras Hill, Hartford, Michigan 49057
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: October 9, 2025
File No. 25-012407
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Pamela S. Bolden; Atty: Holzman, Ritter & Leduc, PLLC - Holzman Corkery, PLLC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Pamela S. Bolden, an unmarried person, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated August 4, 2022, and recorded on August 9, 2022, in Liber 1741, on Page 964, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars and 79/100 Dollars ($8,647.79) plus accrued interest at 7.0% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court

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VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ADOPTION OF ANTI-NOISE ORDINANCE
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-006

Ordinance No. 2025-006

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN ANTI-NOISE ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE.

An Ordinance to secure the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Village of Lawrence by the regulation of noise within the Village; to impose sanctions for the violation thereof; and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

Please take notice that on June 10, 2025 at a regular Council Meeting of the Village of Lawrence, an ordinance was adopted to establish an anti-noise ordinance within the Village of Lawrence.

Full text availability:
A complete copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the Village Hall Office,located at 157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.
Effective date:
This ordinance shall take effect upon 30 days from publication.
Published by order of the Village of Lawrence:
Kelly Johnson
Village Clerk, Village of Lawrence
269-674-8161

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ADOPTION GOLF CART ORDINANCE
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-007

Ordinance No. 2025-007

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A GOLF CART ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE.

An Ordinance to regulate the use and operation of golf carts in the Village of Lawrence.

Please take notice that on June 10, 2025 at a regular Council Meeting of the Village of Lawrence, an ordinance was adopted to regulate the use and operation of golf carts within the Village of Lawrence.

Full text availability:
A complete copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the Village Hall Office, located at 157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.

Effective date:
This ordinance shall take effect upon publication.

Published by order of the Village of Lawrence:
Kelly Johnson
Village Clerk
Village of Lawrence
269-674-8161

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 20-SECONDHAND GOODS, ARTICLE II- GARGE SALES, SEC. 20-25.-PENALITIES
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-009

Ordinance No. 2025-009 amendment to Chapter 20-Secondhand Goods, Article II-Garage Sales, Sec. 20-25.-Penalities was adopted by Village Council on June 10, 2025.
The Village of Lawrence hereby ordains as follows:
SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF SEC. 20-25-PENALITES
Any person violating any of the provisions of this article shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

Full text availability:
A complete copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the Village Hall Office, located at 157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.
Effective date:
This ordinance shall take effect upon publication.
Published by order of the Village of Lawrence:
Kelly Johnson
Village Clerk, Village of Lawrence
269-674-8161

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-005

Ordinance No. 2025-005
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE.
TO REGULATE AND GOVERN THE MAINTENANCE OF ALL PROPERTY, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR SUPPLIED UTILITIES AND FACILITIES; AND CONDEMN BUILDINGS UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY.
Please take notice that on June 10, 2025 at a regular Council Meeting of the Village of Lawrence, an ordinance was adopted to incorporate by reference the International Property Maintenance Code, 2021 edition, as published by the International Code Council.
The newly adopted code will establish minimum and consistent maintenance requirements for all existing residential, rental, and commercial buildings within the Village of Lawrence.
Summary of the regulatory effect:
The International Property Maintenance Code provides standards for ensuring that structures are safe, sanitary, and fit for occupation and use. Key areas regulated by the code include:
- Exterior property maintenance, such as sanitation and weed control
- Structural safety standards for buildings
- Proper maintenance of plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems
- Availability of utilities and essential facilities
- Procedures for condemning buildings unfit for human occupancy

Full text availability:
A complete copy of the ordinance and the full text of the International Property Maintenance Code are available for public inspection at the Village Hall Office, located at 157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.
Effective date:
This ordinance shall take effect upon publication.
Published by order of the Village of Lawrence:
Kelly Johnson,
Village Clerk, Village of Lawrence
269-674-8161

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 10-ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE V. NOXIOUS WEEDS
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-008

Ordinance No. 2025-008 amendment to Chapter 10-Enviroment, Article V. Noxious Weeds was adopted by Village Council on June 10, 2025 with amendments to the following sections:

Sec. 10-120 Definitions

Sec. 10-121 Public Nuisance Declared

Sec. 10-121.1 Exemptions from the requirements to mow

Sec. 10-122 Unlawful height of weeds and grass

Sec. 10-123 Duty to Cut

Sec. 10-124 Grass plots on the public rights-of-way

Sec. 10-125 Grass plots on private property

Sec. 10-126 Notice; posting and publication

Sec. 10-128 Mailing Notice

Sec. 10-130 Costs of abatement constitute lien

Sec. 10-132---10-156 Reserved

Full text availability:
A complete copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the Village Hall Office, located at 157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.

Effective date:
This ordinance shall take effect upon publication.

Published by order of the Village of Lawrence:
Kelly Johnson
Village Clerk, Village of Lawrence
269-674-8161

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
AMENDMENT TO COMPILED LAW CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 1-17; CHAPTER 4 ANIMALS, ARTICLES I, II, AND III; CHAPTER 10 ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE IV SECTION 10-88
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-010

Ordinance No. 2025-010 amendments to Chapter 1 General Provisions, Section 1-17; Chapter 4 Animals, Articles I, II, and III; Chapter 10 Environment, Article IV Section 10-88 was adopted by Village Council on June 10, 2025.

Amendment of Chapter 1 Section 1-17 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction.

Amendments of Chapter 4 are as follows:

Article I, Section 4-1 hereby amended with: changing 'kennel' definition location to Section 8.16 in Chapter 32 Zoning Ordinance Section 9.09 B.2.

Removing 'harborer' from language in entirety from Chapter 4.

Section 4-2 Regarding Permit to Keep Certain Animals amended with: removal from Chapter 4 and moved to Chapter 32 Zoning Section 0.09

Removal of Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 4-8 (e)

Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 4-9 (b) is hereby amended with: Reference to MCL 750.49

Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 4-33 and 4-34 hereby amended with: changing 'police department' to 'law enforcement'.

Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-61 (a) and (b) are hereby amended with: Reference to MCL 287.262

SECTION V

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 10-88 REGARDING Willful destruction of tree; penalties

Chapter 10, Article IV, Section 10-88 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction.

The Ordinance amendment shall take effect October 23, 2025. A full copy of the Ordinance is available at the Village Hall Office and our website at www.lawrencemi.org.

Kelly Johnson
Village Clerk, Village of Lawrence
269-674-8161

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LARGE GARAGE SALE- fishing poles with reels, clothes, household items, wheelchairs, cement mixer, very low prices. Oct 17,18. from 9am - 4pm, 51408 Summit St., Ackley Lake area, Paw Paw.

• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 10/28/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Sara Reynolds, 111; Daniel Hossler, 216.

Joint investigation leads to Arrest of Bangor Township man

Last month, detectives from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Westside Detachment Unit began a joint investigation with the Defiance, Ohio Police Department involving a 38-year-old Bangor Township man.

The investigation revealed that the suspect had used a social media application to engage in inappropriate communication and share explicit material with an individual he believed to be a 12-year-old boy.

During the course of the investigation, it was also discovered that the suspect was in violation of Sex Offender Registration (SOR) requirements, specifically related to his registered address.

These findings were forwarded to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office, which issued a felony arrest warrant for the SOR violation.

Based on this warrant and additional evidence developed during the joint investigation, officers obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence.

On Oct. 8, the arrest and search warrants were executed at a residence in the 36000 block of 66th Street in Bangor Township during which time several electronic and communication devices were seized.

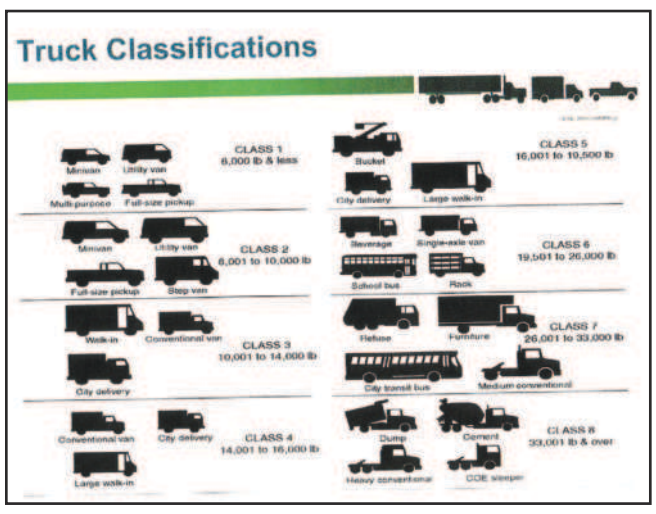
The suspect was taken into custody without incident on the outstanding felony warrant and is currently being held pending extradition to Ohio on related charges stemming from their investigation.

VBC Road Commission announces new weight limit for CR 657 Bridge

ANTWERP TWP. - The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) has implemented a new weight limit on the bridge that carries County Road 657 over the east branch of the Paw Paw River, located between 60th Avenue and 62nd Avenue in Antwerp Township.

Effective Oct. 17, when the signs indicate the new limit have been posted, vehicles crossing the bridge must not exceed 31 tons (62,000 lbs.). Signs indicating the new limit have already been posted. For details on how this affects different vehicle types, please refer to the attached graphic.

This change follows a routine inspection that revealed deterioration in the bridge deck. VBCRC Highway Engineer Barry Anttila, said, "This bridge supports approximately 2,200 to 2,500 vehicles daily. While most passenger vehicles won't be affected, heavier vehicles must comply with the new limit. We're actively working on design and engineering plans to replace the bridge. In the meantime, the weight restriction will help reduce stress on the structure and maintain safe travel."



The estimated cost to replace the bridge is $850,000, which will be funded through VBCRC's general funds and/or county-wide road millage funds, as the bridge is on a primary road and not eligible for federal or state funding in its current form. However, the planned replacement will increase the bridge's size, making it eligible for future grant opportunities.

"This is an unexpected challenge for our 2026 budget," said VBCRC Managing Director Bret Witkowski. "But this is a high-traffic area, and closing the bridge isn't a viable option. We're committed to making the necessary budget adjustments to move this project forward."

The press release concluded, "The Van Buren County Road Commission remains dedicated to improving local infrastructure to save lives, time, and money."

WOODSIDE PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 10 am
Located: 65664 94th Ave, Dowagiac, MI 49047

VEHICLES: 1991 Jeep Wrangler • 2012 Dodge Durango • 2012 Toyota Rav4 • 1997 Dodge Dually • 2008 Chevy Silverado • 1986 GMC C60 • 1970 ½ Chevy Camaro • 1964 Ford Thunderbird • 1983 24' Bayliner Boat • 2000 21' Jayco 5th Wheel Camper
SHOP: Belt Sander • Bandsaw • Jointer • Cut Off Saw • Lots of Press Brake Tooling • Shop Press • Powered Roller Conveyers • Lots of Auto & Semi Parts
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LUMBER: 100's of feet of Walnut, Sycamore, Maple and Like Edge Slabs Kiln dried
PREVIEW: October 23 & 24th 9-2 pm

Woodside Auctions • Amos Hochstetler – 269-208-2230

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page B4

within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 10, RIDGELAWN SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Liber 6, Page 23 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 28859 Violet Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079—Tax Id #80-02-415-010-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: October 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340 (10-09)(11-06)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Frederick D. Cornelius; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 455668F05; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frederick D. Cornelius, a married man, fee simple
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Date of Mortgage: March 21, 2003
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 14, 2003
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $144,451.62
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The North 22 acres of the South 42 5/8 acres of the East 70.5 acres of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, except the North 7 acres thereof.
Common street address (if any): 61398 40th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9753
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1573962
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danielle M Mitchell; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 25-002860-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Danielle M. Mitchell, a single woman and Adrian Mitchell, a single man Original Mortgagee: Superior National Bank Date of mortgage: November 10, 2022 Recorded on November 23, 2022, Liber 1746, on Page 237, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Five and 15/100 Dollars ($157,905.15) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 67 and the East 7.9 feet off the East side of Lot 66 of Village of Bloomingdale, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 10, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 305 E Kalamazoo St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1574216
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danny J Clendenin; Atty: PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY - PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 24-031214; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on November 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Danny J & Angelene Clendenin, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 13, 2012 Recorded on March 15, 2012, Book 1563, on Page 519. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Four and 46/100 Dollars ($142,304.46) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County and described as: LOT 32, WOODHENGE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Commonly known as 22327 Woodhenge Dr, Mattawan MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214
(10-09)(10-30)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ANTWERP TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Antwerp Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. Public comments on the matter are welcome.

Application
- Request: Special land use and site plan amendment for a new 8,224 square foot building on the site
- Zoning District: General Commercial (GC)
- Project Address: 26333 Red Arrow Highway, Mattawan, MI, 49071
- Project Parcel Number: 80-02-003-023-22
- Applicant: Mattawan Landscape Supply

Meeting and Hearing Information
- Location: Antwerp Township offices located at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, MI 49071
- Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Project Details: call (269) 668-2615

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ANTWERP TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Antwerp Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a proposed amendment to Table 12-14 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow ground and wall signs on agricultural properties. Public comments on the matter are welcome.

Meeting and Hearing Information
- Location: Antwerp Township offices located at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, MI 49071
- Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Project Details: call (269) 668-2615

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

NOTICE TO ALMENA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Almena Township will sponsor a ONE DAY Fall clean-up for the **Township on Saturday, October 18, 2025.**

Hours are 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Historic Township Hall Parking Lot, located on CR 375, directly behind the Township Hall.

Attendants will be on duty to help receive materials for disposal. You must have identification to prove you are an Almena Township resident.

We will NOT accept the following: Tires – Appliances, Cement, Chemicals, Paint - Hazardous Materials – Leaves – Batteries - Loose Trash. Dead Animals - Rocks – Sand – Dirt – Concrete – Rubble – Building or Demolition Materials.

Almena Township
Joe Leduc, Supervisor

PUBLIC NOTICE ANTWERP TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 4th, 2025 Election has been scheduled for Thursday,October 23rd, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Township Hall Meeting Room, 24821 Front Ave., Mattawan, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election,counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Chantel Reyna
Antwerp Township Clerk

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven-(7) days' notice to Antwerp Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Antwerp Township by writing or calling.
Chantel Reyna
Antwerp Township Clerk
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Mattawan, MI 49071
269.668.2615 x200

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